

AN ANNOTATED LIST OF HAWKMOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES (LEPIDOPTERA) FROM HAMMOND ISLAND, TORRES STRAIT

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Abstract

During a visit to Hammond Island, Torres Strait, between 22 March and 4 April 2014, records were kept of adult butterflies and hawkmoths taken, observed or identified from the presence of their early stages. The list of hawkmoths totals 25 species. An additional hawkmoth species is included from records of a 1987 trip to Hammond Island by R.B. Lachlan, bringing the total to 26 species. The list of butterflies totals 49 species, comprising 7 of Papilionidae, 4 of Pieridae, 16 of Nymphalidae, 14 of Lycaenidae and 8 of Hesperidae.

Introduction

Hammond Island lies in the southern part of Torres Strait immediately to the north-west of Thursday Island, which is the administrative centre of the Torres Strait islands. Hammond is a hilly continental island, with the highest point known locally as Command Post Hill at 143 m. It is 6.5 km long and reaches a maximum width of 3.5 km. Much of the island retains its original vegetation, a mixture of rainforest, open sclerophyll forest, some grassland and clusters of fringing mangroves. The rainforest is mostly confined to rocky hills that are made up of numerous large volcanic rocks. Very little appears to have been published on the insect fauna of Hammond Island.

We collected hawkmoths on the island at ultraviolet lights between 22 March and 4 April 2014, near the Catholic Church. The lights were run from dusk to dawn and checked for moths three to four times nightly, including pre dawn. During the day, considerable time was spent searching for eggs and larvae, but mostly without success. The only eggs or larvae found were those of *Macroglossum hirundo errans* (Walker) and *Daphnis moorei* (W.J. Macleay).

Hawkmoths have been collected previously on Hammond Island by R.B. Lachlan in January 1987 (R.B. Lachlan pers. comm.). He took only one species not recorded by us: *Macroglossum rectans* Rothschild & Jordan. Other species he collected are marked by an asterisk in Table 1 below.

During this trip, a checklist of the butterflies taken or observed, or identified from their early stages, was also compiled, with a total of 48 species recorded. The timing of this visit coincided with the very end of the wet season and hence was not deemed to be the most productive time to fully document the local butterfly fauna.

Hermann Elgner visited the island on 31 March 1910 (Moulds 1977), when apparently he took just one species, *Neopithecops zalmora lucifer* (Röber) (now *N. lucifer heria* (Fruhstorfer)). This was subsequently recorded by Waterhouse and Lyell (1914). There appear to be no other published records.

Table 1. List of hawkmoths and butterflies recorded from Hammond Island, Torres Strait, Queensland. Nomenclature of hawkmoths follows Kitching and Cadiou (2000) except where indicated. Nomenclature of butterflies follows Braby (2000) or Page and Treadaway (2013). * = also recorded by R.B. Lachlan in January 1987.

Species list	Comments
HAWKMOTHS	
Subfamily SPHINGINAE Latreille, [1802]	
Tribe Acherontiini Boisduval, [1875]	
<i>Agrius convolvuli</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Common
Tribe Sphingini Latreille, [1802]	
<i>Cerbernoton rubescens severina</i> (Miskin, 1891)	Infrequent. <i>Meganoton rubescens severina</i> was recently transferred to genus <i>Cerbernoton</i> by Zolotuhin and Ryabov (2012)
<i>Psilogramma nebulosa</i> (Butler, 1876)*	Common
<i>Psilogramma papuensis</i> Brechlin, 2001*	Infrequent
Subfamily MACROGLOSSINAE Harris, 1839	
Tribe Macroglossini Harris, 1839	
<i>Acosmeryx</i> nr <i>anceus</i> (Herrich-Schäffer, [1869])*	Common. Status subject to revision by Moulds, Tuttle and Lane, in prep.
<i>Acosmeryx miskinii</i> (Murray, 1873)	Scarce
<i>Daphnis moorei</i> (W.J. Macleay, 1866)	Infrequent. <i>D. hypothous moorei</i> was recently raised to species status by Eitschberger and Melichar (2010)
<i>Daphnis placida placida</i> (Walker, 1856)*	Frequent
<i>Gnathothlibus eras</i> (Boisduval, 1832) *	Common
<i>Macroglossum hirundo errans</i> (Walker, 1856)	Common. Eggs and larvae found on <i>Pogonolobus</i> (= <i>Coelospermum reticulatus</i>)
<i>Macroglossum micacea micacea</i> (Walker, 1856)	Infrequent
<i>Macroglossum prometheus lineata</i> (T.P. Lucas, 1891)	Infrequent
<i>Macroglossum rectans</i> Rothschild & Jordan, 1903*	Infrequent. Taken only by R.B. Lachlan in January, 1987
<i>Nephele hespera</i> (Fabricius, 1775)	Scarce
<i>Nephele subvaria</i> (Walker, 1856)	Infrequent

Species list	Comments
Tribe Dilophonotini Burmeister, 1878	
<i>Hippotion boerhaviae</i> (Fabricius, 1775)	Frequent
<i>Hippotion brennus</i> (Stoll, 1782)*	Infrequent
<i>Hippotion rosetta</i> (Swinhoe, 1892)*	Frequent
<i>Hippotion velox</i> (Fabricius, 1793)	Infrequent
<i>Theretra celata celata</i> (Butler, 1877)	Infrequent
<i>Theretra indistincta indistincta</i> (Butler, 1877)*	Infrequent
<i>Theretra inornata</i> (Walker, [1865])	Frequent
<i>Theretra latreillii latreillii</i> (W.S. Macleay, 1826)*	Common
<i>Theretra oldenlandiae oldenlandiae</i> (Fabricius, 1775)*	Infrequent
<i>Theretra silhetensis intersecta</i> (Butler, [1876])*	Common
<i>Theretra tryoni</i> (Miskin, 1891)	Infrequent
BUTTERFLIES	
Family PAPILIONIDAE	
<i>Graphium choredon</i> (C. & R. Felder)	Reasonably abundant; adults often encountered drinking moisture from ground puddles
<i>Graphium macfarlanei macfarlanei</i> (Butler)	Two adults observed
<i>Papilio aegeus aegeus</i> Donovan	Common, widespread
<i>Papilio fuscus indicatus</i> Butler	Often observed feeding on flowers of <i>Bougainvillea</i>
<i>Cressida cressida cressida</i> (Fabricius)	Common, widespread
<i>Pachliopta polydorus queenslandicus</i> (Rothschild)	Common, widespread
<i>Ornithoptera priamus poseidon</i> (Doubleday)	Several observed
Family PIERIDAE	
<i>Catopsilia pomona</i> (Fabricius)	Adults common; eggs and larvae observed on <i>Cassia</i> sp.
<i>Eurema herla</i> (W.S. Macleay)	Common in open grassland
<i>Eurema hecabe hecabe</i> (Linnaeus)	Common in open grassland
<i>Elodina queenslandica queenslandica</i> De Baar & Hancock	Limited to areas adjacent to its <i>Capparis</i> food plant

Species list	Comments
Family NYMPHALIDAE	
<i>Mycalesis terminus terminus</i> (Fabricus)	Common, widespread
<i>Mycalesis perseus perseus</i> (Fabricus)	Common, widespread
<i>Ypthima arctous arctous</i> (Fabricus)	Several observed
<i>Melanitis leda bankia</i> (Fabricus)	Common, widespread
<i>Pantoporia consimilis consimilis</i> (Boisduval)	Common along rainforest margins
<i>Phaedyma shepherdii shepherdii</i> (Moore)	Common along rainforest margins
<i>Doleschallia bisaltide australis</i> C. & R. Felder	Common along rainforest margins; also adults feeding on <i>Eucalyptus</i> blossom
<i>Hypolimnas alimena lamina</i> Fruhstorfer	Common along rainforest margins
<i>Hypolimnas bolina nerina</i> (Fabricus)	Common, widespread
<i>Yoma sabina parva</i> (Butler)	Common along rainforest margins
<i>Junonia orithya albicincta</i> Butler	Common, widespread
<i>Junonia villida calybe</i> (Godart)	Common, widespread
<i>Junonia hedonia zelima</i> (Fabricus)	Common, widespread
<i>Danaus chrysippus petilia</i> (Stoll)	Common, widespread
<i>Danaus affinis affinis</i> (Fabricus)	Common, widespread
<i>Euploea core corinna</i> (W.S. Macleay)	Common
Family LYCAENIDAE	
<i>Hypochrysops narcissus sabirius</i> (Fruhstorfer)	Common along mangrove/rain- forest interface margins
<i>Hypochrysops apelles apelles</i> (Fabricus)	Common along mangrove margins
<i>Arhopala centaurus centaurus</i> (Fabricus)	Common along rainforest margins
<i>Arhopala madytus</i> Fruhstorfer	Locally common
<i>Arhopala micale amytis</i> (Hewitson)	Common, widespread
<i>Hypolycaena phorbas phorbas</i> (Fabricus)	Common, widespread
<i>Rapala varuna simsoni</i> (Miskin)	Several observed
<i>Anthene seltuttus affinis</i> (Waterhouse & R.E. Turner)	Locally common
<i>Anthene lycaenoides godeffroyi</i> (Semper)	Several observed
<i>Candalides erinus erinus</i> (Fabricus)	Common, widespread

Species list	Comments
<i>Psychonotis caelius taygetus</i> (C. & R. Felder)	Common, widespread
<i>Neopithecops lucifer heria</i> (Fruhstorfer)	Collected once by H. Elgner in March, 1910
<i>Euchrysops cnejus cnidus</i> Waterhouse & Lyell	Common in open grassland
<i>Famegana alsulus alsulus</i> (Herrich-Schäffer)	Several observed
Family HESPERIIDAE	
<i>Badamia exclamationis</i> (Fabricus)	Common along rainforest margins
<i>Hasora hurama hurama</i> (Butler)	Larval shelters observed on <i>Derris trifoliata</i> ; no adults sighted
<i>Hasora chromus chromus</i> (Cramer)	Several observed
<i>Toxidia thyrrhus</i> Mabille	Infrequently observed
<i>Suniana sunias rectivitta</i> (Mabille)	Common, widespread
<i>Telicota augias</i> (Linnaeus)	Common along rainforest margins
<i>Pelopidas lyelli lyelli</i> (Rothschild)	Common, widespread
<i>Pelopidas agna dingo</i> Evans	Common, widespread

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